

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

July 15, 2024

What We Can Do

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-15

1 Samuel 19:1-6

KEY VERSES

Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David ² and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. ³ I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out." ⁴ Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. ⁵ He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?" ⁶ Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."

The originally scheduled lectionary text for this past Sunday was 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-15, in which we would have celebrated the Lord with dancing and singing – but after the assassination attempt on our former president over the weekend, Allen focused on a different passage, from the book of 1 Samuel. In this particular passage we find the current king, Saul, attempting to kill David. Saul had appointed David leader over his armies, but he had become jealous and angry because of David's success. This rings so familiar to today's "cancel" culture, in which it is easier than ever for us to cancel, ignore, and blot out those with whom we don't agree – and as seen this weekend, even to the point of an attempt on someone's life. **Think about someone whom you would have liked to "cancel." How did this make you feel and what did you do about it?**

Allen makes reference to the famous Broadway musical, "Hamilton," in which Aaron Burr regrets killing Alexander Hamilton after years of wishing him dead. In the song "The World Was Wide Enough," Aaron Burr's character suggests that maybe, in fact, killing Hamilton was not necessary and that the world was indeed wide enough for both of them. When we are able to see one another as equally made in God's image, and project love onto others the way Christ did for us in His death on a cross, the "cancel culture" mindset can be slowly replaced by peace finding its way into our communities. **How can this help you be a witness to others who might not be able to see past their differences?**

In the context of the nearly warlike rhetoric of the current two political sides – and these two similar stories -- Allen helps us examine what we Christ-followers might find important as we

respond faithfully to this tragedy. As we process the news, may we together better understand the happenings of our time. **This week, pray for a sense of how God hopes to save our world — and in doing so, may it help you discern what you individually, and we as a country, should do.**